JOURNAL
OF
SOUTH AFRICAN BOTANY
VOL. XXV.

Published: 1st July, 1959.

FRANCIS MASSON, A GARDENER-BOTANIST WHO COLLECTED AT THE CAPE.

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(With Plate XVII)

II. MASSON'S JOURNEYS AT THE CAPE

As we have seen, Masson was sent to the Cape twice. His first voyage to that part of the world was in Captain Cook's vessel the *Resolution* which sailed from Deptford, England, on April 9, 1772. But the ship got no farther than Woolwich where she was detained by easterly winds till the 22nd. Via Long Reach and Sheerness, where she had to undergo some alterations in her superstructure, the *Resolution* reached Plymouth Sound, whence she ultimately sailed for the Cape, with the *Adventure* in company, on July 13. The ships dropped anchor in Table Bay on Friday, October 30[36].

Only of Masson's first visit to the Cape, during which he undertook three journeys into the interior, we have an account, viz. the paper already referred to, published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, 1776, pp. 268–317. His report appeared under the title: *An Account of Three Journeys from the Cape Town into the Southern Parts of Africa; undertaken for the Discovery of New Plants, towards the*

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[36] Cook, *A Voyage towards the South Pole and round the World*, Vol. I of 2nd ed. (1777), pp. 1–5, 15.

Improvement of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. By Mr. Francis Masson. *one of his Majesty's Gardeners. Addressed to Sir* John Pringle, *Bart.* P.R.S.[37].

After his return to Kew, MASSON prepared the narratives of these three journeys, each of which he appears to have sent to Sir JOHN as soon as it was ready. On February 1, 1776, he wrote to him: "Sir, In compliance with your request, I now send you the account of my first journey from the Cape, which I have transcribed from my journal; and if you shall find it to contain any thing worthy the notice of the Royal Society, I beg you would do me the honour to present it to that illustrious Body; and believe, that with the greatest pleasure I shall communicate to you and to them the remaining part of my observations. I am, &c." This little note certainly bears testimony to MASSON's modesty.

MASSON's account is rather short as compared with the travel books by THUNBERG and SPARRMAN, but it is written with obvious enthusiasm and a genuine interest in the country and its wild life, animals as well as plants. In addition to this we may quote what THUNBERG writes about MASSON in the Preface to Vol. II of his *Travels*[38]: "Mr. MASON, a skilful English gardener, who accompanied me in both my journies into the interior part of the almost unknown continent of Africa, has, it is true, on his arrival in England, given a short account of both these voyages, in a letter to Sir JOHN PRINGLE, then President of the Royal Society at London, which is inserted in the Philosophical Transactions . . ., together with the relation of his first journey in company with M. OLDENBURG. But as that narrative is very short, and the transactions of the society could not admit a more full and ample detail, it is hoped that this part of my narrative will not be considered as superfluous."

We will give a summary of the route covered on each of these three journeys, followed by fragments of his account, which are of special interest to the naturalist or remarkable for some other reason.

Most of the geographical names as recorded by MASSON are misspelled or in the high Dutch of those days. We shall give the modern names with the MASSON names following in brackets, unless the difference is negligible.

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[37] Sir JOHN PRINGLE (1707–82) was a physician who, while practising with great success in London, attained a position of great influence, especially in scientific circles. On November 30, 1772, he was elected President of the Royal Society, after having been a fellow for several years. PRINGLE's scientific merits were recognized by his being chosen, in 1778, in succession to LINNAEUS, one of the eight foreign members of the Academy of Sciences at Paris. His great work in life was the reform of military medicine and sanitation.

[38] THUNBERG, *Travels*, etc., Vol. II of 2nd ed., Preface, pp. vi–vii (1795).

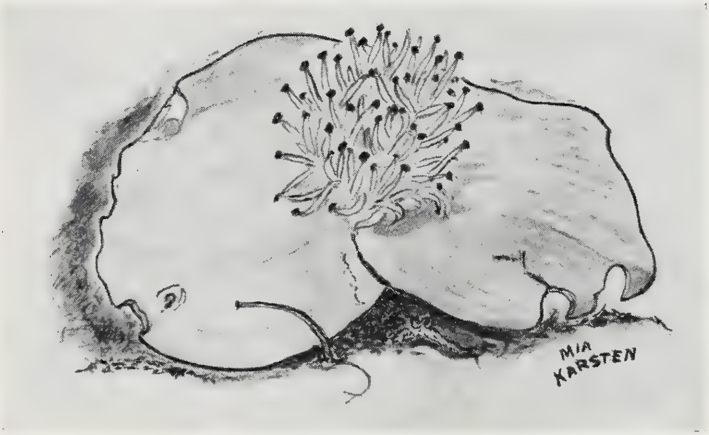

PLATE XVII. *Massonia huttoni*, Baker.

Pale mauve inflorescence; very fragrant! The stamens, interspersed with styles, in a crowded mass, form the most conspicuous part of it. Slightly above natural size.

Out Cradock Road, Grahamstown.

FIRST JOURNEY INTO THE INTERIOR (DEC. 1772—JAN. 1773)

MASSON's companions on this journey were "a Dutchman"—as he calls him—and a Hottentot who drove his waggon which was drawn by eight oxen. As mentioned before, his European fellow-traveller in reality was a Swede of the name of FRANZ PEHR OLDENBURG. As the man was a private soldier, formerly in the service of the Dutch East India Company, this may have induced MASSON to refer to him as a Dutchman. Both in THUNBERG's *Travels* and *Flora Capensis* OLDENBURG is recorded as MASSON's companion on this journey. In the latter work, speaking of MASSON, THUNBERG says: "Anno 1772 brevius cum D. Oldenburg iter instituit"[39].

They set out from Cape Town in N.E. direction on December 10, 1772, towards the evening. They passed the Tygerberg, leaving it at their left. Then they proceeded to the Paardeberg which they passed, and, turning to the east, they crossed the Great Berg River and entered the Drakenstein (Draakensteen) valley. They pursued their journey to Paarl (Perel) and from there to the Fransch Hoek valley. On January 4 they reached Stellenbosch, and the next day they travelled along the foot of the Stellenbosch mountains to Hottentots Holland. After crossing the Palmiet and Bot Rivers (Boter (!) R.), they arrived at a hot bath, situated on the S.E. side of the Zwartberg: the later Caledon baths. Thence they proceeded to the Zonder End River (River zonder Eynde), and after crossing it, they arrived at Zoetemelksvlei (Sweet Milk Valley), a post of the Dutch East India Company, where they stayed for five days. After having forded the Breede River at the place where the Zonder End River joins it, they arrived at Swellendam (Schwellendam), where they remained for two days. Thence they returned to the Cape by much the same route, as is learnt from MASSON's last entry in his journal, dated January 18.

The following may be quoted here from his narrative of this journey in the summer of 1772–73, which hardly covers eight pages of the Phil. Trans. (pp. 269–276).

After crossing the Salt River they reached a large sandy plain, now known as the Cape Flats, about which MASSON writes (p. 269): "The soil of this plain is unfit for cultivation; being a pure white sand, blown by the S.E. wind from the shore of Falso Bay, and often forming large hillocks; it is, nevertheless, overgrown with an infinite variety of plants peculiar to this country."

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[39] Transl.: "In the year 1772 he undertook a shorter journey together with Mr. Oldenburg", THUNBERG, *Flora Capensis*, ed. Schultes (1832), p. 6. In addition to this THUNBERG gives a few notes on OLDENBURG's life and work (pp. 6–7); see this Journal, Vol. V, Oct., 1939, p. 136, footnote 146, and also Vol. XXIII, April, 1957, p. 53, footnote 3.

He was rather impressed by the vegetation of the Hottentots Holland Mountains, as we learn from the following quotation (p. 273): "These mountains abound with a great number of curious plants, and are, I believe, the richest mountains in Africa for a botanist." Immediately after this he proceeds to the Palmiet River, and gives a rough sketch of the plant from which it derives its name, viz. " . . . the Palmet River, so called by the peasants from a plant which almost covers the water; the leaves of which greatly resemble that of the ananas or pine-apple, but their flowers are like those of a reed." In a footnote the scientific name of the "Palmiet", a plant belonging to the Juncaceae, common in watercourses and marshy ground, and extending from the Clanwilliam district through the coastal regions of the Cape to Natal, is mistakingly given as Schoenus serratus. The gen. *Schoenus*, L. is a member of a different family, viz. the Cyperaceae. The proper name of the "Palmiet" is *Prionium palmita*, E. Mey. (syn. P. serratum, Drège; Juncus serratus, L. f.).

On the fourth day of their stay at Zoetemelksvlei they went into the woods which, as MASSON tells us, are about half-way up a high chain of mountains extending along the N. and N.E. side of the valley. Although no name is given, MASSON obviously refers here to the Zonder End Range. After having related an encounter with "wolves" (jackals?), MASSON writes (pp. 274–5): "We afterwards climbed over many dreadful precipices till we arrived at the woods; which are dark and gloomy, interspersed with climbing shrubs of various kinds. The trees are very high; some from eighty to a hundred feet: often growing out of perpendicular rocks where no earth is to be seen. Among these the water sometimes falls in cascades over rocks two hundred feet perpendicular, with awful noise. I endured this day much fatigue in these sequestered and unfrequented woods, with a mixture of horror and admiration. The greatest part of the trees that compose them are unknown to botanists. Some I found in flower; others, which were not so, I am obliged to leave for the researches of those who may come after me in a more fortunate season."

MASSON ends his narrative of his first journey inland with the following words (pp. 275–6): "It was on this journey that I collected the seed of the many beautiful species of *ericae* which, I find, have succeeded so well in the Royal Garden at Kew."

SECOND JOURNEY INTO THE INTERIOR (SEPT. 1773–JAN. 1774)[40].

It was THUNBERG who planned and arranged this journey and asked MASSON to accompany him. We may quote here what THUNBERG writes

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[40] A summary of the route covered by THUNBERG and MASSON on the second and third journey into the interior, is given in this Journal, Vol. V, Oct., 1939, pp. 137–9

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about his companion on this expedition, the other members of their party and their equipment, in his *Travels* (Vol. I, pp. 316–17): "For my fellow-traveller I had an English gardener, of the name of Mason, who had been sent hither by the King of England to collect all sorts of African plants for the gardens at Kew. Mr. Mason arrived the year before, in the same ship in which Captain Cook, with the professors Forster and Sparrman[41], were to make their celebrated voyage round the world, and towards the southern pole. He had arrived at the Cape after I was set out on my journey to Caffraria; and shortly after this he made an excussion into the country, accompanied by Mr. Oldenburg, who went with him, partly as his companion and partly as his interpreter. Mr. Mason was well equipped with a large and strong waggon tilted with sail-cloth, which was driven by an European servant, upon whom he could depend. We had each of us a saddle-horse, and for our waggon we had several pair of oxen. Thus we formed a society, consisting of three Europeans and four Hottentots, who for the space of several months were to penetrate into the country together, put up with whatever we should find, whether good or bad, and frequently seclude ourselves from almost all the rest of the world, and of the human race." It should be added that for this journey Thunberg had obtained a brand new cart, tilted with sail-cloth, of which he was the sole possessor, instead of the old broken one used in the previous year (*loc. cit.*, p. 315).

The party left Cape Town on September 11, 1773, and, directing their course along the N.W. coast, they passed the Blaauwberg mountains, proceeded to Groene Kloof, passed the Conter Berg, whence they entered a large barren country, named "Zwart Land" by Masson, which is the Malmesbury–Darling area. Travelling in the same direction, they arrived at Saldanha Bay on September 22. Thence they journeyed to Witte Klip, later they arrived at St. Helena Bay. After crossing the Great Berg River, they entered the 24 Rivers district. Through the Kardouw Pass they crossed a branch of a chain of mountains, not named by Masson, but undoubtedly the Olifants River Mts. After crossing the Olifants River, they entered the Olifants River Valley, bounded on each

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and 146–9. The accompanying map shows the routes, also of Thunberg's first journey into Caffraria. This part of our paper on Thunberg was written in Holland shortly before the war. It was rather a tricky job, and we lacked the expert help experienced in this country. In particular the route covered on the journey into Roggeveld was difficult to trace, resulting into various inaccuracies on the map, *inter alia*: Thunberg and Masson travelled to the *west* of the Piquetberg, instead of to the east; they passed *west* of the Matsikamma Mts.; it was *not* by crossing the Roggeveld Mts. that they reached the Lower and Middle Roggeveld.

[41] This is incorrect as far as Sparrman is concerned. He did not come out to the Cape together with the Forsters and Masson, but arrived in a vessel of the Swedish E. I. Company, the *Castle of Stockholm* (Stockholms Slott), over seven months before he sailed in the *Resolution* for the Antarctic, etc.

side by high mountains (the Olifants and Cold Bokkeveld Mts.). The hot bath in this valley mentioned by MASSON is now known as The Baths in the present Clanwilliam district. They travelled along the banks of the Olifants River as far as Citrusdal, and after an attempt to cross a high ridge of mountains (the Cold Bokkeveld Mts.) on the east side, which was found impracticable, they sent the waggons over Greys Pass to a place called by MASSON "Rood Land" (=Roodezand, the present Tulbagh valley), while THUNBERG and MASSON, journeying on horseback, directed their course to the south-east. They went through Elands Kloof (a passage through the Cold Bokkeveld Mountains), after which they entered the Cold Bokkeveld. By a very steep path they descended into another small country, the Warm Bokkeveld. They went through the mountains at the position of the present Michells Pass, and crossing the Breede River, they arrived at Roodezand where they found their servants and vehicles. They ascended the Great Winterhoek Mountain on the north of Roodezand. They continued their journey downstream along the banks of the Breede River. After crossing the Goree River (Ko Aree R.), which is seven miles west of where Robertson is now situated, and the Kogmans Kloof River at Ashton (MASSON's "Koekman's Rivier"!), they reached Swellendam. Pursuing their journey, they came to the Duivenhoks River, which they forded. After crossing the Kaffirkuils and Gouritz (Goud's) Rivers, they arrived at Mossel Bay, whence they travelled in northern direction towards the mountains (Attaquas and Outeniqua Mts.), which they crossed by way of the Attaquas Pass (Hartequas Kloof), which is about seven miles west of the present Robinson Pass. They entered a valley, called "Canaan's Land" according to MASSON[42], which is now known as the Little Karroo. Thence they went to the Great Doorn River and entered the Lange Kloof, bounded on the south by the Outeniqua Mountains. After crossing the Kromme River, they arrived at Essenbosch. Continuing their journey, they came to Seekoe River near the present Humansdorp, and, crossing the Gamtoos and Van Staadens Rivers, they reached the Zwartkops River and Saltpans near Algoa Bay. Thence, directing their course inland, they travelled beyond the Bay as far as the Sundays River. This was their farthest afield: they returned to the Cape by the direct route. Having come to Lange Kloof again, MASSON and THUNBERG made a journey on horseback to a hot bath beyond the Kamanassie Mountains on the north side of the Kloof. This hot bath has been identified as Hot Springs near Toverwater Poort. They arrived back at Cape Town on January 29, 1774.

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[42] MASSON must have misunderstood the name given to this area by the colonists. There is little doubt that the proper name was not "Canaan's Land", but "Canna Land", owing to the Canna-bushes, *Salsola aphylla*, L. f. (Chenopodiaceae), which are frequent in the Little Karroo (cf. THUNBERG in his narrative of the same journey, *Travels*, Vol. II, p. 104; see also this Journal, Vol. V, Oct., 1939, p. 139).—*Salsola aphylla*, known as Brakganna, Soutganna, Kanna or Ganna, has been used to supply the alkali for soap-making (THUNBERG), moreover it is of great value as a fodder plant.

We will now quote some of MASSON's observations in the spring and summer of 1773–74.

Near Saldanha Bay—at the end of September—they found a great variety of curious plants, but only one plant is specially mentioned (pp. 277–8): " . . . a large bulbous root, growing on dry precipices, which the Dutch call *vergift-boll*, poison bulb; the juice of which, they say, the Hottentots use as an ingredient to poison their arrows. We found it to be a species of *amaryllis*, and, by the leaves growing in a fan shape, we called it *amaryllis disticha*[43].

About Witte Klip, on their way from Saldanha to St. Helena Bay, MASSON writes (p. 278): " . . . being a white granite stone of an enormous size; from the top of which we had a charming view of the sea coast from St. Helena Bay to the Cape of Good Hope. The whole country affords a fine field for botany, being enamelled with the greatest number of flowers I ever saw, of exquisite beauty and fragrance . . . "

Near St. Helena Bay they found the Great Berg River on both sides bordered with marshes which are overgrown with a reed vegetation (pp. 278–9): "Those reeds are plentifully stocked with birds of various sorts, which build their nests upon such of them as hang over the water. There is one bird, in particular, which has a wonderful effect among the green reeds; its body being a bright crimson, with black and grey wings; and by the brightness of their colours, when sitting among the reeds, they look like so many scarlet lillies; this is the *loxia orix* of LINNAEUS[44]. There are still some of the sea horse, or *hippopotamus amphibius*, in this river; but it is now prohibited to shoot any of them, as they are nearly destroyed for 800 miles from the Cape. . . . We came to the pont or ferry, where we collected a great number of beautiful plants, particularly *ixiae*, *irides*[45], and *gladioli*."

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[43] Now called *Boöphone disticha*, (L. f.) Herb. (syn. Amaryllis disticha, L. f. (non Thunb.!); Haemanthus toxicarius, Ait.; Buphane disticha, (L. f.) Herb.). This is The Cape Poison Bulb or Sore Eye Flower (Gifblom and Seeroogblom in Afrikaans). The Bushmen have also used preparations of this bulb as one of the ingredients for poisoning arrows intended for shooting small game (cf. THUNBERG in his narrative of the journey to the Roggeveld, *Travels*, Vol. II, p. 163, quoted in this Journal, Vol. V, Oct., 1939, p. 150). The old colonists used it as an antiseptic for wounds, the scales of the bulb being dipped in oil or water and placed on the wound. Its inflorescence—numerous sweet-scented flowers of a light red colour, arranged in a dense umbel—is very showy.

[44] This picturesque bird is the Red Bishop Bird, Quelea, or Rooivink, now known under the name of *Pyromelana orix orix* (syn. Euplectes orix). The description we found of the male bird greatly matches the short picture MASSON gives of it. The top of the head, back, lower throat, and tail coverts above and below are orange scarlet, the rest of the plumage is velvety black, while the wing quills are brown with blackish centres. The red bishop birds come in countless thousands like locust-swarms, and are common in marshes.

Referring to the hot bath in the Olifants River valley, Masson writes (pp. 280–1): "There is a hot bath here, which we visited, issuing from the side of a mountain. The water was nearly boiling hot at the place it issued out of the rock; and the people who used it affirmed, that it was hot enough to boil a piece of meat. I observed an orangetree, which had been either raised from a single seed, or planted when very young, in a seam of the rock where the water boiled out, which, to my surprize flourished amazingly, and all the sides of the bason where the people bathed were matted round with the fibres."

Travelling along the banks of the Olifants River, they found the country rather luxuriant (p. 281): "The meadows yielded excellent pasture for our cattle[46], the grass reaching up to their bellies, but of a coarse texture, being chiefly *Juncus*, *scirpus*, and *cyperus*."

About the vegetation in the Elands Kloof Masson writes (p. 282): " . . . we saw few plants here, only some trees of the *protea grandiflora*[47] thinly dispersed along the skirts of these mountains [Cold Bokkeveld Mts.]."

When they arrived in the Warm Bokkeveld towards the end of October, they traversed through fertile grassland, the grass reaching to their horses' bellies, and "enriched with great variety of *ixiae*, *gladioli* and *irides*, most of which were in flower at the Cape in the month of August" (p. 283).

Masson and Thunberg experienced great difficulty in fording the upper course of the Breede River, its bed being filled with huge stones, which tumble down from the sides of the mountain. They had to cross the river no less than four times! But their labour was largely repaid as they stumbled upon a great number of rare plants on the opposite side. Masson writes about this (p. 284): "The bank of the river is covered with great variety of evergreen trees; viz. *brabejum stellatifolium*, *kiggelaria Africana*, *myrtus angustifolia*[48], and the precipices are ornamented with *ericae* and many other mountain plants never described before."

We may now quote what is recorded on pp. 284–5 about the vegetation of the Great Winterhoek Mountain (one of the highest mountains in the Cape Province and often snow-capped in winter), which they ascended soon after their arrival at Roodezand. "Here we expected to find plants that ought endure the severity of our climate [in England and Sweden]; but when we arrived at its top, we found nothing but a few grasses, *restiones*, and *elegiae*[49]; the whole mountain consisting of rock, lying in horizontal *strata*, without any sort of earth, except a little decayed rock in which the grasses grew."

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[45] The plants referred to by Masson in his account as "irides" are various species of *Morea*.

[46] The oxen which draw their waggons, and probably also their riding-horses are meant here.

[47] *Protea grandiflora*, Thunb., the Wagenboom or Waaboom.

[48] *Brabeium stellatifolium*, L., Wild Almond or Wilde Amandel (Proteaceae); *Kiggelaria africana*, L., Wild Peach, Wilde Perske or Spekhout (Bixaceae); Myrtus angustifolia, L. = *Metrosidoros angustifolia*, Sm. (Myrtaceae).

They continued their journey along the banks of the Breede River, where they collected "many remarkably fine flowers." The plant which struck them in particular, was, quoting MASSON (p. 285), " . . . one of the liliaceous kind, with a long spike of pendulous flowers, of a greenish azure colour, which among the long grass had an admirable effect (this is *ixia viridis*[50])."

Near the Goree River, which they reached on October 31, they found many new plants, particularly "*gerania* and *stapeliae*" (p. 286).

Then they passed on to the Kogmans Kloof River, "the banks of which", as MASSON tells us (p. 286), "are covered with thick woods, and furnished with a variety of birds, which afforded us great sport. The trees were mostly of *mimosa nilotica* of LINNAEUS[51]; the species of the birds I have not yet determined, not being provided with books upon Ornithology to settle one half of those which I collected on this journey."

It was on November 5 that they arrived at Swellendam, and on the very same day they dined with the "Land Drost". As Masson does not give the name of their host, we may add that the then landdrost of Swellendam was Mr. J. F. MENTZ[52].

Fording the Duivenhoks River on November 11, THUNBERG had a narrow escape. We find the incident described by MASSON as follows (pp. 286–7): "The Doctor imprudently took the ford without the least inquiry; when on a sudden, he and his horse plunged over head and ears into a pit, that had been made by the *hippopotamus amphibius*, which formerly inhabited those rivers. The pit was very deep, and steep on all sides, which made my companion's fate uncertain for a few minutes; but, after several strong exertions, the horse gained the opposite side with his rider." THUNBERG's own version of the mishap, as given in *Travels*, Vol. II, pp. 46–7, is somewhat different. . . . The night previous to the crossing they spent on a farm nearby, and, continuing in THUNBERG's own words, "having taken an early leave of our worthy hostess, we went down to Duyvenhoek's river, which was at a short distance from the farm. The late rains had filled this rivulet, so as to make it dangerous to cross. The rivulets of this country, however, have usually some shallow places, where, even in the greatest flood, one may cross them with waggon and oxen. To shew us one of these drifts (as they are called) our hostess has been so kind as to send a slave with us; but, as he neither understood nor spoke Dutch, he was obliged to communicate his instructions to us by signs, which, either from ignorance or malice, he entirely perverted, as he pointed out to us a circular track over the river to the right, which we ought to have taken to the left. I, who was the most courageous of any of the company, and, in the whole course of the journey, was constantly obliged to go on before and head them, now also, without a moment's consideration, rode plump into the river, till, in a moment, I sank with my horse into a large and deep sea-cow hole, up to my ears. This would undoubtedly have proved my grave, if my horse had not by good luck been able to swim; and I, who have always had the good fortune to possess myself in the greatest dangers, had not, with the greatest calmness and composure, guided the animal (which floundered about violently in the water) and kept myself fast in the saddle, though continually lifted up by the stream. After having passed over this hole, I was likewise successful in my attempts to get safe out of it, though the edges of these holes are in general very steep, in so much that they seldom afford one a sure footing. Holes of this kind which the Hippopotamus treads out for its resting place, occur in a great many rivers, though the animal itself perhaps is no longer to be found there, but has either been shot, or made to fly to some other more secure retreat. All this time my fellow travellers stood frightened on the opposite bank and astonished, without daring to trust themselves to an element that appeared to them so full of danger. However, as soon as I had got off my horse and let the water drain off from me a little, I ordered my Hottentots to drive across the river, according to a better direction that I gave them, after which the others followed.

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[49] *Restio* and *Elegia* spp. (Restionaceae).

[50] Ixia viridis, Thunb. = *Ixia viridiflora*, Lam., the Green Ixia or Groen Kalossie. MASSON has classified this iridaceous plant erroneously with the Liliaceae.

[51] Mimosa nilotica, Thunb. (non Linn.!) = *Acacia karroo*, Hayne (syn. A. horrida, Willd.), Thorntree, Karroo Thorn, Doringboom or Karroodoring.

[52] JOACHIM FREDERIK MENTZ was a Hollander who came out to the Cape in 1749. After having held the office of secretary of the Swellendam district for a number of years, he was appointed landdrost in 1766. About the landdrost's duties MASSON says that he is a justice of peace and collects different taxes for the peasants (p. 286).

I had the greatest reason to be thankful to the divine Goodness, which had preserved me in this imminent danger, and the more so, as it happened on the anniversary of the day on which I came into the world thirty years before."

Having crossed the Kaffirkuils River, they found a country consisting of valleys and low hills which were easy to climb, lying between a range of mountains, the Langebergen, and the sea. "On the declivities of these low hills", quoting MASSON (p. 287), "grows the *aloe Socotorina*[53] in large clumps, which when old have stems about five or six feet high, with only a few thick leaves on their tops, that at a distance appear like bands of Hottentots. The peasants make great quantities of the gum aloes from the sap of the leaves, which they sell at the Cape from two to six pence per pound. . . . "

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[53] This is *Aloe succotrina*, Lam. (syn. A. soccotrina, Garsault; A. soccotorian (J. A. et J. H. Schultes).

On November 15 they reached the Gouritz River, which they found in flood. The river was about 100 yards broad and the water so high that it came up to the seat of their saddles, as recorded on p. 287. This part of the country proved to be a rich hunting ground for the plant collector, according to MASSON's description (pp. 287–8): "On each side of this river lies an extraordinary track of land, which in the Hottentot language is called Carro. It is a dry, burning soil, of a reddish colour, intermixed with rotten rock, and intirely divested of grass; but enriched with an infinite number of evergreen shrubs, both frutescent and succulent: among the latter we found many new species of *crassula, cotyledon, euphorbia, portulaca, mesembryanthemum.*" The "Carro" land referred to must be part of the Little Karroo.

Half a month later, on December 1, they came to the Seekoe River. They took their lodging at the house of a farmer, "*Jacob Kock*, an old German . . . " (p. 291)[54]. They rested here for eight days, and did a lot of collecting in the adjacent woods and fields. About plants which drew their special attention, we read (p. 292): "We found here a new palm, of the pith of which the Dutchman told us the Hottentots make bread; but we could get no satisfactory account of their method of making it. We observed two species; one about a foot and a half diameter in the stem, and about twelve feet high, with entire leaves; they appeared to be very old, and seldom bore fruit. The other sort had no stem, with the leaves a little serrated, and lying flat on the ground, which produced a large conical fructification about eighteen inches long, and a foot or more in circumference; squamose, and under each of the *squamae*, is an oval nut, about the size of a chesnut, of a beautiful red colour, but insipid taste. The male plant is similar to the female, only not producing fruit, but bearing a *strobulus*, and containing the *pollen*, or male-dust, in small cells underneath its *squamae*[55]. In the woods here we found the

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[54] This was JOHANNES JACOBUS KOK (sometimes spelt KOCK), a hospitable and industrious Hessian, who had built a handsome house on the north bank of the Seekoe River, St. Francis Bay, and surrounded it with gardens and vineyards. SPARRMAN and PATERSON were to stay with him too on their journeys. KOK died just before or in 1786. The above information we owe to FORBES (his thesis *The Expanding Horizon*, 1957).

[55] The new "palm" of THUNBERG and MASSON, the Kaffir Bread-tree, is not a member of the palm family, but was later found to belong to a separate family, the Cycadaceae. Moreover, the S. African Cycas or Zamia species were included in a new genus, *Encephalartos*, Lehm. As to the identity of the two species described by MASSON, it is beyond doubt that the 12 feet high species is *E. longifolius*, Lehm.

euphorbia antiquorum[56] forty feet high. The inhabitants observe, that the honey found near these trees is unwholesome."

After crossing the Gamtoos River, they came to the Loeries River (Lory's R.), "so called from a species of parrot[57], which is found here" (p. 294).

Before fording the Van Staadens River, they traversed "a pleasant country, diversified with smooth green hills, interspersed with evergreens, and stocked with numerous flocks of the *capra dorcas* of LINNAEUS, *equus zebra*, and *camelus struthio*; which, together with the fine disposition of the woods and groves, could not but charm us . . . " (p. 294)[58].

On the other side of the Van Staadens River they found "the true Cape jassemine, or *gardenia stellata*[59], and the coral tree, *erethrina corallodendron*"[60] (p. 296). The date was December 12, and the next two days they were journeying in very short stages, employing their time in collecting plants, all of which were new. MASSON continues with the following zoological observation (p. 296): "The buffalo[61] is numerous in this country: it is a fierce animal, and larger than the biggest of our

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(syn. Cycas caffra, Thunb., Nova Acta Regiae Societatis Scientiarum Upsaliensis, Vol. II (1775), part of the description, *not* the figure !), which grows in the coastal region where MASSON saw it. The apparently stemless species (it has an under, ground stem) is *E. caffer*, Lehm. (syn. Cycas caffra, Thunb., *loc. cit.*, tab. V and part of the description; Zamia caffra, Thunb., Prodr. Pl. Cap., Vol. II, p. 92 (1800), and Fl. Cap. ed. Schultes, p. 429, partly (1832)], which is also found near Seekoe River. In his original description, in which he confused the two species, THUNBERG introduced the dwarf stemless one as the true *E. caffer* ("Cycas caffra"). See HUTCHINSON and RATTRAY, Cycadaceae, in *Flora Capensis*, Vol. V, Sect. 2 (Suppl.), 1933. The notes on the Bread-tree in THUNBERG's *Travels*, Vol. I, p. 201, and Vol. II, pp. 66–67 (quoted in this Journal, Vol. V, Oct., 1939, pp. 126 and 141) definitely refer to these two species.—By *strobulus* and *squamae* the more or less cone-shaped inflorescence and the scales forming part of it, are meant.

[56] What is called "Euphorbia antiquorum", by MASSON is most likely *E. triangularis*, Desf., a treelike species with stems of 30–40 feet high, and common in these parts.

[57] This is the Knysna Loerie, *Turacus corythaix*, common in the coastal districts of the eastern Cape. It is a green bird with a white-topped crest, and with red wings (very showy when flying). MASSON was not far wrong, calling the loerie a kind of parrot, as the family it belongs to, the Musophagidae (peculiar to Africa), is placed between the parrots and the cuckoos by most authorities.

[58] Capra dorcas=*Alcelaphus caama caama* (SPARRMAN's Antilope dorcas !), Cape or Red Hartebeest, Rooihartbeest; *Equus zebra zebra*, Cape Mountain Zebra, Bergkwagga; *Struthio australis* (syn. S. camelus), Ostrich, Volstruis.

[59] Gardenia stellata (?). We failed to trace this name. What we know as True Cape Jasmine is not a *Gardenia* at all, but a plant named *Jasminum tortuosum*, Willd. (Oleaceae), with sweetly scented white or yellow flowers. But its distribution in the coast region of the Cape—Humansdorp Division and Kabeljouws River—practically rules out that this was the plant mentioned by MASSON. There is another species, *J. angulare*, Vahl (syn. J. capense, Thunb. !), scarcely different from the former, which is found *inter alia* in the Uitenhage Division, on the banks of the Zwartkops River, near Algoa Bay, and this might well have been the jasmine referred to.

[60] *Erythrina caffra*, Thunb. (syn. E. corallodendrum, Thunb.), Coral-tree, Kafferboom. (Legum.).

[61] *Syncerus caffer caffer*, Cape Buffalo, Kaapse Buffel.

English oxen. In the day-time they retire to the woods, which renders it very dangerous to botanize there. We here saw two lions for the first time, at about 4 or 500 yards distance; but they took no notice of us, keeping their eyes upon a clump of the *capra dorcas*, which were feeding at some distance from them. . . . "

Soon they set out on their return journey to the Cape. Travelling from Lange Kloof, where they had left their waggons, to the hot springs beyond the Kamanassie Mountains on December 29, MASSON and his Swedish companion, and some Dutch people who had joined them, traversed a level country, extremely dry, of which MASSON writes (p. 298): "The plains were covered with loose stones, and not a blade of grass to be seen; but we found many rare species of *crassula*, *mesembryanthemum*, and other succulent plants." Late at night next day they arrived at the bath, which is situated at the foot of a ridge of dry mountains, now known as the Great Zwartberg Range. On the following day they climbed these mountains, and from the summit they had an extensive view of the country beyond: very dry and desolate, part of the Great Karroo. MASSON mentions one single species only of the Zwartberg vegetation (p. 299): "We found here a species of heath remarkable for having its branches and leaves all covered with a fine hoary down or nap, which we thought singular in that *genus*: we called it *erica tomentosa*"[62].

When they had passed on to the Great Doorn River on January 3, MASSON and THUNBERG again parted with their waggons, in order to examine the large tract of Karroo, where they would not take their oxen on account of the scarcity of water. Here they lost their way, spent the night in the veld in a thicket of *Acacia karroo*, and in the early morning of the 4th, MASSON climbed up a high precipice, and had a look at the country. His effort was not fruitless, for he writes (p. 300): "Here I collected several curious plants, *geranium spinosum*, *stapelia euphorbioides*"[63]. So far MASSON'S account of this journey.

THIRD JOURNEY INTO THE INTERIOR (SEPT.–DEC. 1774)

During the months previous to the third journey inland, which had the Roggeveld as its aim, MASSON went on various excursions on the Peninsula together with THUNBERG, and also an English lady of noble birth, who stayed at the Cape on her way to India. It is interesting to learn what THUNBERG writes about this in *Travels*, Vol. II, p. 132: "There had arrived from England, in order to proceed to Bengal, Lady Ann MONSON[64], who had undertaken this long and tedious voyage, not only for the purpose of accompanying her husband, who went out as colonel of the regiment in the East Indies [!]; but also with a view to indulge her passion for natural history. This learned lady, during the time she stayed here, made several very fine collections, and particularly in the animal kingdom. And, as I frequently had the pleasure, together with Mr. MASON, of accompanying her to the adjacent farms, and, at the same time, of contributing greatly to the enlargement of her collections, she had the goodness, before her departure, to make me a present of a valuable ring, in remembrance of her, and of the friendship with which she had honoured me. She was a lady about sixty years of age, who amongst other languages, had also some knowledge of Latin, and had, at her own expence, brought with her a draughtsman, in order to assist her in collecting and delineating scarce specimens of natural history."

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[62] The identity of this *Erica* species of the Great Zwartberg is rather doubtful. The heath known under the name *E. tomentosa*, Salisb., is found in the coastal districts of the Cape, and more inland near Genadendal and in the mountains near Zoetemelksvlei. We did not come across any locality in the central part of the country. There are more *E.* species with pubescent leaves and flowers.

[63] Geranium spinosum, Burm.=*Sarcocaulon burmanni*, Sweet, Candlebush, Kersbos (Geraniaceae).—Stapelia euphorbioides (?): there is no Stapelia of that name, but in view of the specific name, we wonder whether the plant collected by MASSON is not one of the species on which much later the gen. *Caralluma* was founded by ROBERT BROWN.

BRITTEN, in his article on MASSON in Journal of Botany[65], writes that MASSON does not mention in his account that he was accompanied by THUNBERG also on this journey. This is incorrect as will be seen below. But he does refer to MASSON's letter to LINNAEUS of December 26, 1775, from London[66], in which it is said that he made two successful journeys into the interior with Dr. THUNBERG, and in addition to this he quotes the following from THUNBERG's *Flora Capensis*: "Annis 1773 et 1774 mecum interiora Africes versus orientem et septentrionem peragravit"[67]. We may add to this that also in his letter to the younger LINNAEUS (December 12, 1778, from Madeira, see footnote 66) mention is made of the two journeys.

Regarding the preparation of this journey THUNBERG tells us (*Travels*, Vol. II, p. 134): "I fitted myself out as in the preceding year, in the month of September, and again had Mr. MASON, the English gardener, for my fellow-traveller, although he was not much inclined to make any long excursion this year." From this it is quite evident that this journey too was planned and arranged by THUNBERG. MASSON might not have been very keen at the time on another extensive trip because of his low stipend. BRITTEN apparently has also not seen the above passage in *Travels.*

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[64] Lady ANN MONSON, originally Lady ANN VANE, was a great-granddaughter of Charles II from her mother's side. In 1757 she married GEORGE MONSON (1730–76), Indian officer, who was her second husband. They went to India, where she must have done a good deal of collecting, for, as early as 1767, her merits in the field of natural history were recognized by LINNAEUS, who named after her the small genus *Monsonia* (Geraniaceae), now comprising about 40 species, natives of Africa (29 in S.A.), western Asia and eastern India. Later they returned to England, but came out again in 1774 as mentioned above. They arrived in Calcutta in October of that year, and very soon after MONSON, then a colonel, took his seat in the Supreme Council of Bengal. Curiously enough, in the *Dictionary of National Biography* (1894), which gives some records of the MONSONS, nothing is said of Lady ANN's interest in plants and animals, and of her sojourn at the Cape. But the biographer does tell us that she was "a very superior whist-player"! She died in February, 1776.

[65] J. BRITTEN, Journal of Botany, Vol. XXII, 1884, p. 115.

[66] This Journal, Vol. XXIV, October, 1958, p. 211; letter to Linnaeus *fil.*, p. 215.

[67] THUNBERG, *Fl. Capensis*, p. 6 (1832), transl.: "In the years 1773 and 1477 he travelled with me to the interior parts of Africa towards the east and the north."

MASSON set out from the Cape on September 26, 1774, accompanied by two Hottentot servants only. They travelled through the great sandy plain between Cape Town and the Hottentots Holland Mountains, which is now known as the Cape Flats. Then they crossed the Eerste River and journeyed along the foot of the Stellenbosch mountains. On October 2 MASSON had reached Paarl (Paarle Kerk !), where, quoting him (p. 302), "I was joined by Dr. THUNBERG." Together they proceeded to Paardeberg, and, directing their course northwards, they later arrived at Riebeek Kasteel mountain. After crossing the Great Berg River, they came to the foot of the Piquetberg. Travelling to the east of it, they reached the Verloren Vlei (a river), which they crossed. Directing their course northwards again, towards the mouth of the Olifants River, they had to pass through a rather desolate country, a kind of sandveld, for seven days, before reaching this river. After crossing the Olifants River near Vredendal, they passed west of the Windhoek and Matsikamma Mountains and reached the Troe-Troe River, near where Van Rhynsdorp now stands. Thence they journeyed northwards over the plains west of the Bokkeveld Mountains, now called the Van Rhynsdorp Karroo, heading for the Zwart Doorn River at the northern termination of the mountains. They ascended the mountains, probably at their northern end near "Die Hel", and travelled southwards to a point not far from Nieuwoudtville. Thence, directing their course to the E.N.E., they proceeded on their journey to the Hantamsberg. They passed round this Berg in a clockwise direction. The open cleft or cut through which they journeyed probably being that which lies between the Agter Hantamsberg and the Ramhoeks Berg. They now traversed the Lower and Middle Roggeveld east of the Roggeveld Mountains, and travelling in south-eastern direction, they descended to the Tanqua Karroo, probably 10 miles west of Verlaten Kloof. Journeying across the Karroo, they reached Gousbloem Kloof (in the Koedoes Mts.). Thence they arrived at the Ongeluks River, which they crossed. They passed Paardeberg on their way to Doorn River. After crossing this river and passing through a valley formed by the mountains between Karroo and Cold Bokkeveld (Karroo Poort), they finally arrived at Verkeerde Vlei, at the eastern foot of the Matroosberg. A few days later they passed through a valley in the mountains to DE VOS's estate near Hex River. On December 17 they reached

Roodezand through Hexriver Kloof. Thence they directed their route past Paardekraal through Koopmans River, and after crossing the Great Berg River, they proceeded to Cape Town, where they arrived on December 29.

Masson's narrative of this journey yields but few observations which are of special interest to the lover of plants and animals.

On October 9 they climbed the Riebeek Kasteel mountain, which is described as very high, four or five miles long, and with a narrow top. They collected here "many remarkable new plants, in particular a hyacinth, with flowers of a pale gold colour" (p. 303)[68].

A few days later they crossed the Great Berg River, and, quoting Masson (p. 303): "From thence we proceeded through a barren uninhabited country; consequently were obliged to content ourselves with the shelter of a large *leucodendron*[69], that protected us from the S.E. wind. . . ."

As they passed on to the Piquetberg, Masson writes (p. 303): "All around the mountain the soil is sandy, but furnished with a great variety of beautiful plants, especially *aspalathi*[70]".

Then travelling towards the mouth of the Olifants River, they found the sandy country they traversed, extremely hot at that time of the year, November. And, using his own words (pp. 304–5), "It was also not a little fatiguing to travel here on horse back, the mole-casts being so deep that the horses fell up to their shoulders every six or seven minutes. This animal is by the Dutch called Land-moll, but differs so much from the European mole, that it does not belong to the same class of animals, but is intirely new. It feeds up on the roots of *ixiae, gladioli, antholizae*[71], and *irides*, often grows to the size of a rabbit, and by some is esteemed good eating. There is another species of the animal, called by the Dutch Bles-moll, which inhabits the hard ground; but seldom exceeds the size of the common European mole[72]. This country is furnished with a great variety of elegant shrubs; viz. *enistae*, *partia*, and *aspalathi*"[73].

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[68] This must be one of the *Lachanalia* spp. (Liliac.), possibly *L. pustulata*, Jacq., characterized by pale yellow flowers, and widely distributed in the western Cape region, *inter alia* in the Malmesbury Division in which Riebeek Kasteel is situated.

[69] *Leucadendron*, Berg. (Proteaceae). It is difficult to say what species Masson referred to. It might have been *L. plumosum*, R.Br., which grows into an erect bush of 5—7 feet high, and is rather widely distributed in the western Cape: it is found as far north as the Clanwilliam Division, and more to the west in the Piquetberg region.

[70] *Aspalathus* spp. (Leguminosae).

[71] *Antholiza* spp. (Irid.). For "irides" see footnote 45.

[72] Both animals belong to the Mole-rat family, the Bathyergidae. The one which is called "Land-moll" (we wonder whether this name has not actually been Sandmol (=Sand Mole), for Land-moll does not make any sense), is *Bathyergus suillus suillus*, the Cape Dune Mole-rat, Sand Mole, or Kaapse Duinmol, and is found from the Cape as far north as the Olifants River. Sometimes the ground is riddled with their tunnels. The smaller animal is *Georynchus capensis capensis*, the white-faced Blesmol or Mole-rat, which is distributed from the Cape Peninsula eastwards to the

On November 25 they had reached the Olifants River. Here they found a Dutch habitation, where they rested for several days. About the karroid country this side of the river, which abounded with game, we read (pp. 306–7): "The steril appearance of this country exceeds all imagination: wherever one casts its eyes, he sees nothing but naked hills, without a blade of grass, only small succulent plants. The soil is a red binding loam, intermixed with a kind of rotten *schistus* or slate. Next morning we traversed the adjacent hills, and were surprized to find all the plants entirely new to us. They were the greatest part of the succulent kind: viz. *mesembryanthemum*, *euphorbia*, and *stapelia*, of which we found many new species. The peasant told us, that in winter the hills were painted with all kind of colours; and said, it grieved him often, that no person of knowledge in botany had ever had an opportunity of seeing his country in the flowery season. We expressed great surprize at seeing such large flocks of sheep as he was possessed of subsist in such a desart; on which he observed, that their sheep never ate any grass, only succulent plants, and all sorts of shrubs; many of which were aromatic, and gave their flesh an excellent flavour. Next day I passed through a large flock of sheep, where I saw them devouring the juicy leaves of *mesembryanthemum*, *stapelia*, *cotyledon*, and even the green seed vessels of *euphorbia*; by eating such plants they require little water, especially in winter."

After crossing the Olifants River, they proceeded northwards through a desert-like country, the Van Rhynsdorp Karroo, between the Atlantic and the Bokkeveld Mountains (Bockland Mts.), which is described as follows (p. 309): "It is uninhabitable in summer; but in winter, or during the rainy season, the Bockland people come down with their herds, which by feeding upon succulent shrubs, that are very salt, in a short time grow remarkably fat. There still remains a great treasure of new plants in this country, especially of the succulent kind, which cannot be preserved but by having good figures and descriptions of them made on the spot; which might be easily accomplished in the rainy season, when there is plenty of fresh water every where. But at this season of the year, we were obliged to make the greatest expedition to save the lives of our cattle, only collecting what we found growing along the road side, which amounted to above 100 plants never before described".

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mountains about Tulbagh and Worcester. It is known as very destructive to tuberous crops.

[73] Regarding the first two names, we do not know what Masson means by "enistae" and "partia", both names being in the plural and most likely not correctly spelt. It is only a guess that "enistae" actually should be Genistae, in which case Masson designates some shrubs of the Leguminosae family as *Genista* spp.

Ascending the Bokkeveld Mountain, they found "a new species of aloe, called by the Dutch Koker Boom, of which the Hottentots make quivers to hold their arrows; it being of a soft fibrous consistence, which they can easily cut out, leaving only the bark, which is hard and durable. These trees were about twelve feet high, with a strait smooth trunk, about ten inches or a foot diameter and five or six feet in length, which divided into two branches; and those were again sub-divided into two more branches, which terminated in a bunch of thick succulent leaves surrounding the stem, spear-shaped, entire, without spines, and hanging down like the leaves of *dracaena draco*. We did not see it in flower, but by the above characters took it for a new species, and called it *aloe dichotoma*"[74] (pp. 309–10).

About the name of this part of the country MASSON writes (p. 310): "It was called Bockland on account of the amazing quantity of spring bucks[75] which were formerly found there". The number of bucks which constantly remain in there, had considerably dwindled since the Europeans came to settle, but " . . . it generally happens once in seven or eight years, that flocks of many hundred thousands come out of the interior parts of Africa, spreading over the whole country, and not leaving a blade of grass or a shrub".

Our last quotation is from his description of the Roggeveld Karroo, where they were in the second half of November. This is another observation of the use the Hottentots make of certain indigenous plants and animals. On p. 314 it is related: "They . . . poison the arrows with the venom of serpents mixed with the juice of a species of *euphorbia*[76], which we had no opportunity of seeing. . . . There is a caterpillar which produces a very large moth, and is found commonly on the *mimosa nilotica*. These are found in great plenty, often stripping the trees of all their leaves, and of them the Hottentots make many a delicious meal"[77]. They found here only few plants, but those which they came across, were all new. MASSON did not see a single *Erica* or *Protea* in the whole country (p. 315).

MASSON ends his account of this journey by saying that they returned to Cape Town on December 28. This date is not quite correct, according to THUNBERG, who tells us in his narrative of the journey to the Roggeveld in his *Travels* (Vol. II, p. 184), that he arrived safe and sound at the Cape on the *29th* of December[78].

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[74] *Aloe dichotoma*, L. f., the Kokerboom, also found in Namaqualand.

[75] *Antidorcas marsupialis marsupialis*, Springbuck, Springbok.

[76] We can only guess the identity of this *Euphorbia*. The most likely species is *E. virosa*, Willd., the Noorsdoring, discovered near the Orange River by WILLIAM PATERSON in 1778. The latex which is extremely poisonous, was formerly used by the Namaqualand Bushmen and Hottentots as an arrow poison. The name *virosa*, venomous, is quite appropriate.

[77] Presumably *Gynanisa maia* (Saturniidae), a giant moth measuring 5½ inches across the wings, whose caterpillars are known to feed on the leaves of *Acacia karroo* (Mimosa nilotica).

MASSON sailed for his home country soon after SPARRMAN met him in March, 1775[79]. He was to stay in England until May 19, 1776, when he left the country on another errand.

The Banksian Correspondence includes a *Memorandum*, not dated[80], addressed to the King by Sir JOSEPH BANKS, in his capacity as President of the Royal Society. It deals with MASSON's first mission to the Cape, and his achievements in the years 1776–82, and was later published in BRITTEN's paper on MASSON[81]. BANKS's *Memorandum* being so closely connected with MASSON's first visit to the Cape—it provides a good deal of additional information—we think it justified to produce it here in full, with exception, however, of the two accounts of expenses (the second one very elaborate) *re* MASSON's later missions to the various islands above mentioned, which are of less interest to the South African reader. The *Memorandum* reads as follows:

"In the year 1772 Sr. John Pringle, late President of the royal Society, made application to his Majesty that Mr. Masson, then one of the under Gardiners at Kew, might be appointed to reside for some time at the Cape of Good Hope, in order to collect there Seeds & living plants, for the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew.

His Majesty, being graciously pleased to honor this plan with his royal approbation, & to signify to Sr. John Pringle that Mr. Masson would be allow'd his expences, provided they did not exceed £200 a year, & a recompence on his return of £100 a year, Mr. Masson sail'd for that place, & was absent from England about 3 years.

In the course of his absence he drew bills on Messrs. Thos. Coutts & Co. to the amount, as appears by their books, of £583 8s. 6d. for his support & expences; & soon after his return his Majesty was pleased to order the sum of £300 to be paid to him, which money Mr. Aiton, his Majesties Botanical Gardiner, received from the hands of Mr. Ramus, deceas'd, late his Majesties first page, & paid to Mr. Masson, who gave a receipt for it as having recd. it from Mr. Ramus.

In the course of this Voyage Mr. Masson collected & sent home a profusion of Plants, unknown till that time to the Botanical Gardens in Europe, a full account of which will appear in Mr. Aiton's Catalogue of the Plants in the Royal Botanick Gardens at Kew, which is nearly ready for publication; by means of these, Kew Garden has in great measure attained to that acknowleg'd superiority which it now holds over every similar Establishment in Europe; some of which, as Trianon, Paris, Upsala, &c., till lately vyed with each other for preeminence, without admitting even a competition from any English Garden.

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[78] See also this Journal, Vol. V, Oct., 1939, p. 151.

[79] See this Journal, Vol. XXIII, April, 1957, p. 56.

[80] This must have been written either in 1782 or in 1783. See footnote 84.

[81] J. BRITTEN, Journal of Botany, Vol. XXII, 1884, pp. 115–17.

Mr. Masson, having by these means ingratiated himself with all those who make natural history their study or amusement, & produced an account of his voyage into the inland of Africa, which was printed in the Philosophical transactions, express'd the most ardent desire of being again employ'd in the like researches. Accordingly Sr. John Pringle again petition'd his Majesty in the year 1776, who was graciously pleas'd to consent to Mr. Masson's again undertaking an extensive Plan of operations; he was to visit *Madeira*, the *Canaries*, the *Azores*, and by the way of the *West Indian Islands*, to penetrate, if possible, to the *Spanish Main*.[82]

This he undertook, & succeeded, at least as fully as before, in sending home from Madeira, Teneriff, & the Western Islands [Azores], in a manner, the whole of their produce, the greatest part of which prov'd new to European botanists.

Ample mention is made of these Plants, dried specimens of which he communicated to the late Professor Linnaeus, in a work published by his Son, intitled ['Supplementum Plantarum'].

When Mr. Masson arriv'd in the West Indian Islands, the war [with France!], then somewhat advanced, made it necessary for him intirely to drop his plan of visiting the Spanish Main, to which it was in vain for him to apply for a pasport. The Islands themselves he found in so unsettled a state that it was with the utmost difficulty he found means to send home what he collected, parts of which were frequently lost by capture or waiting for Convoy.

When the French attack'd Granada[83] he was call'd upon to bear arms in its defence, which he did, & was taken prisoner fighting in the trenches.

He was also in the terrible hurricane of Octr. 14, 1780, at *St. Lucie* [St. Lucia], and lost there all the Collections at that time in his possession, & great part of his Clothes & Papers.

Finding by fatal experience that in time of war the purposes of his Mission could not effectually be fulfilled, he came to the resolution of returning, which he did in November of last year"[84].

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[82] The "Spanish Main": S. and/or W. shores of the Caribbean Sea.

[83] Granada, usually spelled Grenada, is one of the smaller West Indian Islands, like St. Lucia, mentioned below.

[84] We failed to find the year of MASSON's return home from the West Indian Islands. This is a pity, otherwise we would have known the year in which BANKS's *Memorandum* was written. From another more detailed account of expenses for the period 1776–82 it is learnt that the last of the W. I. Islands MASSON visited was Jamaica, and that he was there in March, 1781. The next item on the account is MASSON's passage home, but without a date.

After an account of expenses and salary from April, 1776, to April, 1782, Banks continues: "Having thus brought Mr. Masson home from ten years employment in Collecting plants for the Royal Botanick Garden at Kew, I cannot omit saying that during that time he has prov'd himself sufficiently instructed in the Science of Botany for the purposes of his Mission, & indefatigable in the execution of his duty.

I am confident that the famous Journey to the Levant, made by Monsr. Tournefort by the order of Lewis XIV [Louis!] at an immense expence, did not produce so great an addition of Plants to the Paris Gardens as Mr. Masson's Voyage to the Cape only has done to that of Kew.

As far as I am able to judge, his Majesties appointment of Mr. Masson is to be accounted among the few Royal bounties which have not been in any degree misapplied.

At present the War in Europe making it necessary for Ships from all parts of his Majesties dominions to come home in Convoy, almost precludes the Idea of Mr. Masson being employed with success in any part of the world.

Should his Majesty be graciously pleas'd to consider his past services, & those he is likely to perform when a peace shall arrive, to appoint such part of his salary as to his Royal wisdom shall seem meet for his present sustenance, & that he having by ten years absence from the improvements of his Profession, & by being during all that time admitted to the Society of Men of Education, as well as circumstances much superior to his own in great measure incapacitated from following it.

Should his Majesty, I say, be graciously pleas'd to appoint him a part of his Salary for his present sustenance, annexing him in this manner to the service of the Royal Botanick Garden, and to order him out again as soon as those concern'd in the management of it can find a proper opportunity, I am confident that such his royal bounty would conciliate the gratitude of all who make the Science of nature their study throughout Europe, & more especially those who in this Kingdom, I may say under his Majesties particular Auspices and protection, follow that most engaging occupation of glorifying the Creator by observing and pointing out the wonders of his works." Signed: J. Banks.

This is followed by another account of expenses over the period 1776–82 (see footnote 84).

During his stay, in 1777, on the Azores, he forwarded plants and specimens to Aiton, and a short but interesting view of the main island of St. Miguel [San Miguel] in the Philosophical Transactions[85]. In an essay *History of the Azores, or Western Islands*, in The Quarterly Review[86], there is a short reference to MASSON and his work. The author says: "No naturalist, except MASSON, and his knowledge was principally confined to botany, has yet visited them with a view of inquiring into their natural History . . . " (follows a reference to MASSON's publication in Phil. Trans.). From his description of the island of Fayal, next to San Miguel, we may quote: " . . . and the ever verdant *Faya*, from which the island derives its name. This beautiful plant, the only one of the arborescent kind common to these islands and Madeira, is described by MASSON in the Hortus Kewensis under the name of *Myrica Faya*[87].

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[85] Phil. Trans., Vol. lxviii, 1778, pp. 601–10.

After his return from the West Indian Islands, MASSON remained at home till 1783, when he was dispatched to Portugal. He did a good deal of collecting here, and also in Spain, including Gibraltar. During the same year he found his way across to the African continent, sending BANKS plants from Tangier and Sallee. Then he returned to Portugal, whence he sailed for Madeira (his second visit to the island). In 1785 he returned to England, but this time he was not to stay very long at home: the year had not yet passed when he was sent on another mission abroad.

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[86] The Quarterly Review, Vol. XI, 1814, pp. 194 and 197.

[87] *Myrica faya*, Ait., a 9½—16 feet high arborescent shrub (Myricaceae), mistaken by FORSTER for a beech (the word "faya" is the Portuguese for beech).

(*To be continued*)